

THE HISTORY OF OHIO'S NORTHERNMOST COAL MINE

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The Zeil Pfouts farm, located 2.7 miles northwest of Burton Village in Geauga County, Ohio, is similar in appearance to many of the well kept farms in that vicinity. The Pfouts farm, however, has one distinction that is shared with no other farm in the vicinity for miles around; for between 40 and 60 years ago coal was mined from beneath its acres. This mine was unique in that it was the farthest north of any coal mine ever operated in Ohio. (See Figure 1.) The only other near coal mines, with the exception of an attempt to mine coal 2.15 miles southwest of Welshfield on the east side of the Cuyahoga River, are at least 15 miles farther south along the north-south line and being somewhat farther east or west are actually 25 or 30 miles distant.² These mines are in the vicinity of Tallmadge in Summit County, Palmyra in Portage County, and Vienna in Trumbull County.

Concrete evidences of past mining operations on the Pfouts farm have long since been almost completely obliterated. The mine buildings and equipment have been removed, the mine openings filled, and cultivated and pasture fields cover the former mine sites. A green meadow without an apparent trace of a mine opening or mine dump now extends over the site of the main shaft which was located approximately 100 feet west of the Pfouts house. Only small bits

¹This historical account was written at the suggestion and with encouragement of Wilber Stout, State Geologist of Ohio.

The compilation of the historical data was made possible through the help of numerous persons in the Burton and nearby communities. The following persons have furnished information: Charles Burnett, Frank Davis, Lynn Mumford and nephew, Ben Owen, David Owen, Miss Margaret Owen, Zeil Pfouts, R. R. Phillips, Frank Taylor, Mrs. Ina Taylor, F. H. Thwing, and J. M. Zethmayr. J. J. Feicht, of Cleveland, gave a copy of the original lease, and Miss Annie Ashton, of Chardon, copied lease records at the Geauga County Courthouse.

Special acknowledgment is due Miss Bertha Buell and James Glasgow, who read and criticised the manuscript, J. R. Hickman, who aided in the preparation of the photographs, and Miss Anne Frankenberg, who did the typing.

²On November 26, 1943, I made an attempt to find the location of the coal prospect near Welshfield in Troy Township, Geauga County. Mr. Frank Taylor kindly directed me to the site, but in the limited time available I was unable to find any positive surface evidence of the attempted mining. The following are published references to this unsuccessful coal mine:

"In Troy township, the Coal-measure sandstone is separated from the Conglomerate by the coal shales, which are, in places, very thin, and rarely exceed a thickness of six feet. In the southern part of the township, coal has been obtained in small quantities from a seam too thin to be profitably worked. Yet at this point it is probably thicker than in any other part of the county on the east side of the Cuyahoga."—Read, M. C., "Sketch of the Geology of Geauga County," *Report of Progress of the Geological Survey in 1870*, p. 466, Geol. Surv. Ohio (1871) and Read, M. C., "Geology of Geauga County," Geol. Surv. Ohio, Vol. I, Pt. I, p. 521 (1873).

"Evidences of the existence of coal were discovered in 1848-9 on land located in section sixteen, then belonging to Rensselaer Smith, now to Peter Davis. Jehu Brainard, a noted geologist then living in Cleveland, examined the premises, and decided that coal did not exist there in paying quantities. Mr. Smith was not satisfied with this decision, but went to Pennsylvania and procured a practical miner, to come and develop whatever might be found. A few bushels of coal were taken out, which were used by our blacksmiths, but after prospecting less than one hundred feet, the 'mine' came to an abrupt termination. The cavity is now abundantly supplied with excellent water of a very low temperature."—Chapman, William H., "Troy," *Pioneer and General History of Geauga County, Ohio* (Symposium), p. 623, published by the Historical Society of Geauga County (1880).

of dark shale and coal mixed in the soil betray the former existence of a mine there. Approximately 300 feet northeast of the Pfouts house is a broad shallow ravine. Near an old beech tree in this ravine was located the oldest mine opening on the farm from which coal was taken. (See Figure 3.) Some 25 feet southeast was another which was probably a secondary one. These two furnish the best surface evidences of mining operations. There is a low pile of weathered shale largely concealed by blackberry bushes and rubbish. A depression and several



FIG. 1. Map of Ohio showing the location of the coal mine near the Village of Burton in Geauga County and the distribution of the Pennsylvanian and Permian Systems (Coal Measures) by stippling.

cave-ins partly filled with rubbish and field stones mark the entrance and the course of the main slope. A depression is all that is indicative of the location of the secondary slope. Within a radius of 400 feet around the house, Mr. Pfouts showed me seven additional locations of mines, two of which were slopes and five of which were shafts. They were used for ventilation, drainage, and removal of coal. This number does not include numerous prospect pits which were dug from time to time both before and during the operation of the mines. The approxi-

mate locations of the ten mine locations are shown in Figure 2. Without Mr. Pfouts' help it would have been impossible to find the locations of most of them; for, as already mentioned, the surface evidences of their sites, consisting of bits of dark shale and coal mixed in the soil, a tiny weathered shale pile, slight depressions, and now and then a fresh cave-in, are meager. When cave-ins occur, they are filled as quickly as possible with whatever debris is at hand. They have occurred along the east-west road near the Pfouts buildings and in the adjacent fields. On one occasion the road gave way over one of the abandoned mine entries with the passage of a truck loaded with brick and cement. On another occasion the ground in a field on the south side of the road caved under one of Mr. Pfouts'

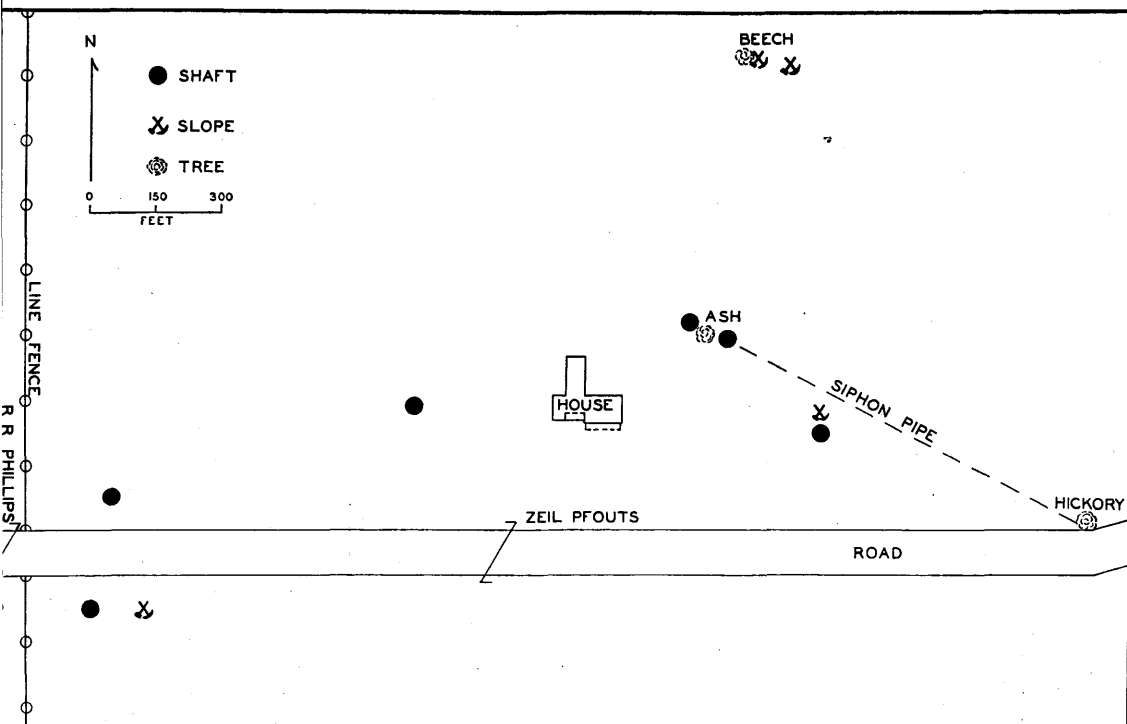


FIG. 2. Map of parts of the Zeil Pfouts and R. R. Phillips farms showing the location of the former mine openings.

horses. With such slight surface indications of mining one could drive past the Pfouts farmstead on the public road for a lifetime and never be aware of the existence of these former mines.

Many of the facts concerning these mining operations have been lost. I have been unable to ascertain how and when coal was discovered in the Burton vicinity. There are no good exposures of coal in the immediate vicinity on account of the almost continuous mantle of glacial till. Nevertheless coal was long ago reported at several nearby places. As early as 1871 Newberry wrote as follows:³

In Geauga county the Briar Hill coal reaches as far north as Burton and Newbury, but only in a narrow strip and detached islands, and is there thin and of little or no value.

³Newberry, J. S., "Sketch of the Structure of the Lower Coal Measures in Northeastern Ohio," *Report of Progress of the Geological Survey in 1870*, p. 27, Geol. Surv. Ohio (1871).

In the same report and in a subsequent one published two years later (1873) Read wrote as follows:⁴

At Burton, the coal shales and the seam of coal are thicker—the rocks of the Coal-measures reaching a thickness of 125 feet; and if the village is to remain without railroads, further exploration of the coal seam, by shafting or drifting, is advisable, as there are indications of coal in sufficient quantities to be profitably mined for local consumption. There is, however, no probability of a supply sufficient to warrant its shipment elsewhere, or to enable the owners to compete, even in the Burton market, with coal from the main coalfields of the State, in the event of a railroad being built. Near the northeast corner of Newberry township, coal of very good quality, about two feet thick, has been disclosed in sinking a well on Mr. Frank Stone's farm, and at a depth of about ten feet from the surface. Here a thin stratum of shale covers the coal, not thick enough to constitute a safe roof; but to the west and northwest, the surface of the land rises, and over a small area it is possible that a sufficient cover may be found to allow of the coal being taken out. The quantity, however, is not large, and what coal there is must be sought near the summit of the hill.

The Frank Stone farm (now R. R. Phillips) lies immediately to the west of the Pfouts farm.

Ford, writing in the *History of Geauga County* published in 1880, makes a brief mention of coal:⁵

Bituminous coal was found in the hill south of the square, near where George Carlton now lives, by Rev. Dexter Witter and Daniel L. Johnson, esq., but not in paying quantities; and also about three-fourths of a mile north of the "old garden," near the residence of Judge Stone.

No date is given for the discovery by the Rev. Mr. Witter and Mr. Johnson. It is revealed in the above history that the Rev. Mr. Witter first came to Burton in 1821, but did not live there regularly until 1828 and that Mr. Johnson was a boy when his parents moved from New York State to Burton in 1833. Both men were still living when the *History of Geauga County* was written.⁶ George Carlton lived in what is now known as Carlton Street on the south edge of Burton. The "old garden" is located at North Burton and is near the Pfouts farm.

Coal is reported to occur on the Lynn Mumford and Frank Davis farms located one mile west and one and three-fourth miles southwest, respectively, of the Pfouts farm.⁷ Although coal may once have outcropped on those farms, it is no longer exposed, according to Mr. Mumford and Mr. Davis. Coal is reported by Mr. Mumford at a depth of 43 feet in the drilled well at his milk house. Coal is also reported to have been encountered in other wells drilled in the vicinity, and it is possible that the digging and drilling of water wells played an important part in the discovery of the coal. The wells cited here have been drilled since mining ceased. On the O. Buehner property on the east side of Route 44 and a little less than a mile northwest of the Pfouts farm, two feet of coal are reported at a depth of 42 feet.⁸ In the well on the Louis Bukovics property near the west end of Carlton Street in Burton Village, three feet of coal are reported in the interval between a depth of 45 and 60 feet.⁹ Only this last autumn (1943) Mr. Burnett reported coal at a depth of 12 feet about one-half mile south of the center at Claridon.

⁴Read, M. C., op. cit., p. 466 and pp. 521-22.

⁵Ford, W. J., "Burton," *Pioneer and General History of Geauga County, Ohio*, p. 420, published by the Historical Society of Geauga County (1880).

⁶Idem., pp. 485 and 579.

⁷Burnett, Charles, Oral communication, August or September, 1942.

⁸Idem.

⁹Thwing, F. H., Oral communication, September, 1942.

From the available evidence it appears that the presence of coal in the vicinity of Burton was known at least 15 years and possibly much longer before the mining began.

Active prospecting and first mining of the coal on the Pfouts farm began as early as 1884, and prospecting may have been begun even earlier. On May 27, 1884, Edward Blunt and David John leased the coal mining rights from Howard Pfouts, the father of Zeil Pfouts. This lease was assigned to D. E. Owen on May 2, 1891. The June 26, 1884, issue of the *Burton Independent* in a North Newbury news item had the following:

The coal shaft has been abandoned on account of high water.



FIG. 3. Beech tree and location (at arrow) of the oldest slope northeast of the Pfouts house.

On September 5 of the same year the *Geauga Leader* carried the following in the North Newbury news column:

After sinking the fifth shaft, coal has been found in paying quantities. Parties from Youngstown are moving their families and are to mine the coal.

A second lease, not identical in wording but very similar in import, is dated June 12, 1885. In it Edward Blunt and David John subleased the coal mining privileges on the Pfouts farm to Edward (Ned) James and M. Owens. On January 1, 1886, the second lease was assigned by Edward James to D. E. Owens, agent for M. Owens.

A copy of the first lease is appended at the end of this account in Appendix I. All of the participants in the leasing of the rights with the exception of Howard Pfouts were Welsh. They came from the Welsh colony at Mineral Ridge, Ohio, with the depletion of the coal in that district. David E. Owens was the husband

of M. (Mary) Owens and the son-in-law of David John.¹⁰ David E. Owen was an accountant, not a miner, but nevertheless it was he to whom the leases were assigned and who directed the mining operations during most of the period of active mining. It seems that David John and Edward Blunt, who had connections with the mining industry in Mineral Ridge, either discovered or learned of the presence of coal on the Pfouts farm and were instrumental in having Mr. Owen assume the leases to coal rights on that property. Although he attempted it, Mr. Owen was never able to lease the coal rights on the George E. Barnes (formerly Frank Stone and now R. R. Phillips) farm, which lies immediately to the west of the Pfouts farm and east of Route 44, although he rented and farmed it and lived there for some time.¹¹

The mines were operated under the name of the North Burton Coal Company. The first opening for the commercial removal of coal was the slope by the beech tree northeast of the Pfouts house. Later the main shaft directly west of the Pfouts house was dug, and after a period of mining it too was abandoned. Shortly thereafter other openings were dug along the road west of the Pfouts house and east of the line fence. One of them was a shaft on the north side. A shaft and a slope were located almost directly across the road. The slope, located 40 feet east of the shaft, extended under the road. This is the place where a cave-in occurred under one of Mr. Pfouts' horses a few years ago. The locations of these three mines are only discernible by the bits of dark shale and coal. The slope in the orchard 150 feet due east of the Pfouts house was the last opening from which coal was mined on the farm. Associated with this slope were three lesser shafts. One was directly south of the slope, and two were located northwest near an ash tree. One or more of these shafts may have antedated the slope. They were used for ventilation and for siphoning water from the mine. The only trace of this slope and of these three shafts is an abundance of black shale and coal in the soil. The locations of all of these former mine openings are shown in Figure 2.

Several informants have reported the average thickness of the coal to be 30 to 36 inches and the maximum thickness to be four feet. The coal was apparently deposited in channels or basins and is lenticular in its development. Mineable thicknesses, accordingly, are extremely patchy in distribution. The overburden is thin and probably does not exceed 24 feet in thickness. The following geologic section has been compiled from available sources of information:

5. Glacial till: comprises most of overburden above coal.....15' to 24'
4. Shale: dark, thin.....
3. Coal: bituminous with some cannel in lower part and with some scattered
marcasite throughout, *Sharon*.....2' 6" to 3' 0"
2. Clay: thin, locally present.....
1. "Rock": sandstone or conglomerate, *Sharon*.

Such a roof of till and shale over the coal made mining operations dangerous and troublesome and required timbering for every foot of the underground workings. That greatly increased the labor and costs in mining the coal. Rotting timbers in the old mine openings have permitted the cave-ins from time to time.

¹⁰Later in life David E. Owen dropped the "s" from his last name. Herein following the name Owen will be used.

¹¹Mr. Owen did not bring his family from Mineral Ridge until 1886, when he with his wife and children moved into the house on the northeastern corner of the crossroad just southeast of Alderman Pond. This house is now in ruins. Later the Owen family moved to the George E. Barnes farm and finally to North Newbury which is at the crossroad west of the Barnes and Pfouts farms. In 1900 Mr. Owen and his family moved to Burton Village.

Water also is reported to have been troublesome. From some openings it was removed by a water cage and from at least one other by a siphon. The siphon pipe extended from a shaft near the ash tree northeast of the house to the bitternut hickory tree at the bend of the road southeast of the house. (See Figure 2.) It was set in operation by means of a pitcher pump. The removal of water from the mine dried up the shallow dug well at the Pfouts buildings.

From the slope by the beech tree the coal was brought out in mine cars hauled by a donkey or a little mule. From the other openings the cars were lifted or pulled by a jenny wheel operated by one or more horses. The jenny wheel and shaft opening were covered by a shed, the sides of which could be removed in warm weather.

The coal contains much sulphur and ash and is only of fair quality. Nevertheless it is reported to have burned well in spite of much ash and many clinkers. The coal is both bituminous and cannel and was used locally for domestic purposes, in the maple sugar camps, and in steam engines. It was sold at the following prices:

Lump coal.....	\$2.50 per ton
Nut coal.....	2.00 per ton
Slack (used in maple sugar camps).....	1.00 per ton

The coal here is the Sharon member or Number 1 coal. It is the oldest coal in the Coal Measures (Pennsylvanian System) in Ohio. This is the same seam that once was extensively mined in northeastern Ohio in the vicinity of Massillon, Mineral Ridge, Youngstown and other communities where it was known as the "Block Coal."

The output of coal from all mining operations on the Pfouts farm was small in spite of the fact that the mines were in operation for almost 20 years. Mr. Owen's record books have been lost or destroyed, and hence it is impossible to determine the total tonnage of coal mined. The mines were idle during the summer months and only one or two miners worked at any time. The equipment and facilities were crude and small in comparison with modern mining equipment. In addition to digging coal, Mr. Owen and his employees did all the necessary blacksmith and carpenter work. They made most of their equipment and tools.

The length of time that any of the mine openings was in operation must have been short. As stated previously, the slope at the beech tree was probably dug in 1884, yet Zeil Pfouts states that this slope and the main shaft west of the house were both already abandoned by about 1890.¹² The last slope in the orchard east of the house was in operation in 1901 and may have continued in operation for one or two years longer.

Not many facts are known about the men who worked in the mines. David John, who was a blacksmith, and Edward Blunt, who is reported to have sold insurance, seem to have been interested in the mining principally as promoters. They probably performed little or no manual labor in prospecting and mining. David E. Owen, however, did all types of work connected with the mine as well as managing it. Edward (Ned) James is reported to have been the first miner

¹²He relates that he was born in 1883 and that he was six or seven years old when the main shaft was filled. An event that happened during the filling of the shaft firmly impressed it on his mind. A team of horses was engaged in hauling debris to fill the shaft. The team was driven too near the open shaft, and the edge caved in and threw one horse over the brink. The weight of the unfortunate horse hanging over the edge and attached to its team-mate by the harness threatened to drag the second horse into the shaft. Quick action in cutting the harness saved the second animal. The other dropped into the shaft, which was partly filled with water, and was drowned.

employed by Mr. Owen and probably did much of the actual work in digging and working the first slope at the beech tree. Later William Bowen, a miner from Mineral Ridge, and Isaac Owen, a half brother of David E. Owen, were employed. They did not like the rural atmosphere of the North Burton neighborhood and remained only a short time. Still later Will Jones, Mr. Owen's nephew, came from Mineral Ridge and worked in the mine for a few months. Mr. Owen's older sons also helped with the mining. Finally there was Christ Maggs, from Girard, Ohio, who helped to dig the slope east of the Pfouts house and who operated it alone until mining was abandoned on the farm.

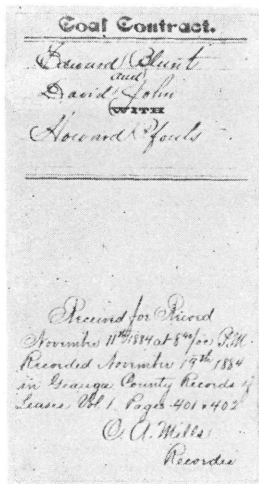
Although the mining there ended about 40 years ago, interest in the coal has been revived from time to time. The Owen family held the lease to the coal rights on the Pfouts farm for a number of years and made semi-annual payments until August 2, 1922. In 1933, J. J. Feicht of Cleveland leased the Pfouts and Phillips farms and attempted unsuccessfully to strip the coal. Since then James Sober of Salem, Ohio, test drilled the Pfouts and other nearby farms but attempted no mining.

REFERENCES

1. *Report of Progress of the Geological Survey in 1870*, Geol. Surv. Ohio, Columbus, Ohio, 1871.
2. *Report of the Geological Survey of Ohio, Geology*, Vol. I, Part I, Geol. Surv. Ohio, Columbus, Ohio, 1873.
3. *Pioneer and General History of Geauga County*, Hist. Soc. Geauga County, Burton, Ohio, 1880.
4. *Atlas of Geauga County, Ohio*, H. B. Stranahan & Co., Cleveland, Ohio, 1900.
5. *Burton Independent*, Burton, Ohio, June 26, 1884.
6. *Gauga Leader*, Burton, Ohio, September 5, 1884; October 16, 1907; January 1, 1913; February 21, 1922.

APPENDIX I

Copy of coal contract signed by Howard Pfouts, Edward Blunt, and David John on May 27, 1884.



COAL CONTRACT. REGISTERED PRINTING HOUSE, Youngstown, Ohio.

Article of Agreement, Made and entered into this Twenty Seventh day of May A. D. 1884, by and between Howard Pfouts of Beckton Township, Grange Co. Ohio party of the First Part, and Edward Blunt and David John of Mineral Ridge Township, Grange Co. Ohio party of the Second Part.

Witnesseth, That in consideration of One Dollar received, and of the covenants and agreements of the SECOND PARTY, to be performed as hereinafter stipulated, the said party of the FIRST PART does hereby Bargain, Sell and Convey unto the said SECOND PARTY all the Mineral Spring Coal that may underlie the following described tract or lot of Land situate in the Township of Beckton County of Grange and State of Ohio and is bounded and described as follows:

On the North by land of John S. Porter On the East by land of John Murphy On the South by land of George Hines On the West by land of C. S. Ireland Containing Eighty Acres of land more or less

And also grants the exclusive right to test, open, mine and remove said Coal and further grants the right to construct railroads, underground entries, and all necessary buildings and fixtures to facilitate the mining and removing of said Coal.

And it is agreed by the party of the SECOND PARTY that they will within 18 months from the date of this Contract, test said land by drilling or otherwise; and in case there should be discovered a minable vein or basin of Steam Coal of sufficient quantity and quality to justify the opening and mining of said Coal in the opinion of the said SECOND PARTY, then they agree to mine out said Coal and pay the following rate per ton for all Coal mined on said premises, to-wit:

One Cent for each ton of

2240 pounds of merchantable Coal; Payments to be made and continue in the following manner, to-wit: To make payment semi-annually for all the Coal mined from said land; that is to say, a settlement to be had on the first of January and July of each year, as nearly as practicable, and payment to be made in full for all Rent and Royalty due up to each date, respectively, and after December 1st years from the date of this Contract, said SECOND PARTY agrees to mine out and remove annually

One hundred tons of coal, payable to the ton, or pay for that amount as it mined.

It is Further Agreed, By the parties to this agreement, that all money paid or advanced by said SECOND PARTY agreeable to the above stipulations, and previous to mining said Coal, is, and shall be so considered as advance rents prepaid on said Coal, and is to be deducted from the rents of the first excess of Coal mined on said premises.

It is also Agreed, That all Coal mined on said premises is to be accurately weighed, and the weight to be kept in a book, which shall at all reasonable times be open for inspection of the said FIRST PARTY, and it is further agreed that the said party of the SECOND PART is to have the privilege of using the said railroads, underground entries, buildings and fixtures, for the purpose of mining and removing Coal from other lands, and after the said mine becomes exhausted or unfeasible, they may continue the use of said railroads, underground entries, buildings and fixtures by paying to the party of the FIRST PART the sum of Twenty five dollars per year as long as they use them for transporting Coal.

It is Further Agreed, That said party of the SECOND PART shall have the right to abandon this Contract at any time they shall determine that said Coal is in quantity, quality or condition no longer minable with economy and profit; and remove their machinery and other structures and property from said land.

And we, the parties, by the signing and sealing of this Contract, bind ourselves, our heirs, our assigns and legal representatives to strictly adhere to the several covenants and agreements of this Contract, as witness our hands and seals the day and year above written.

Witness, Test and Delivered in Presence of

Howard Pfouts [SEAL] Edward Blunt [SEAL] David John [SEAL]

W. S. Hitecalf [SEAL]

State of Ohio
County of Grange
Township of Beckton

On this 27th day of May A. D. 1884, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County, personally came all of the parties above named, who severally acknowledged the signing, sealing and execution of the foregoing instrument to be their voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned; that they are still satisfied therewith, and desire the same may be recorded as such.

Know all Men by these Presents, That Edward Blunt and David John of Mineral Ridge in the County of Grange and State of Ohio the party of the SECOND PART in the within contract described, made by Howard Pfouts to sell on the Twenty Seventh day of May A. D. 1884, do hereby assign, transfer and set over the said contract, unto Grange County Ohio W. S. Hitecalf of

with all the property and rights of property, interests, powers and possessions of every kind therein conveyed to-wit: do have and in hold to them their assigns aforesaid, and to their legal successors in said property and rights forever.

In Witness Whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and seals, this second day of May 1884.

Sign, Seal and Delivered in Presence of

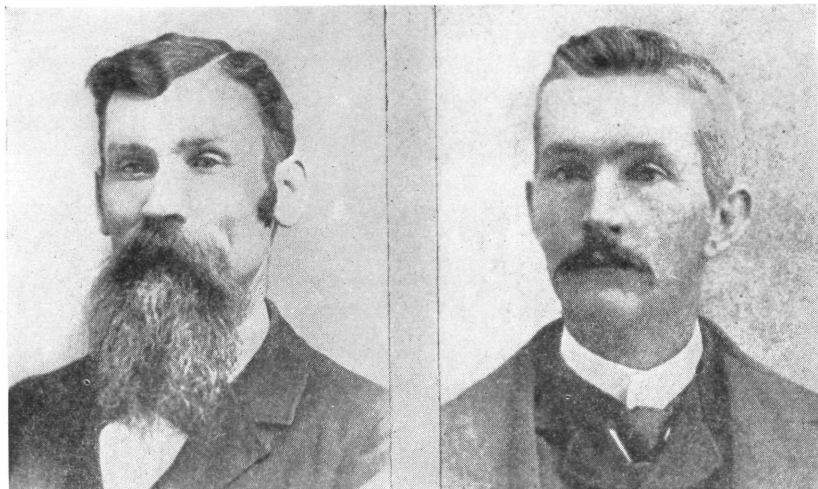
Joseph Stuart [SEAL] Edward Blunt [SEAL] David John [SEAL]

STATE OF Ohio
County of Grange
Township of Beckton

On this 27 day of May A. D. 1884, before me personally appeared the said Edward Blunt and David John above named, and acknowledged that they did sign and seal the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed.

Joseph Stuart [SEAL]

APPENDIX II
BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES



A. DAVID ELSWORTH OWEN
1847-1922

David Elsworth Owen was born in Wales on July 6, 1847. His parents emigrated to the United States the following year and settled at Mineral Ridge in Trumbull County, Ohio. He was reared in that town and by diligent effort was able to attend Iron City Commercial College in Pittsburgh. After his graduation he became an accountant and followed that profession during much of his life. About 1880 he became interested in the coal deposit near Burton, Ohio, through his father-in-law and others and eventually secured the mining rights and operated mines at North Burton. Although mining began in 1884, Mr. Owen and his family did not move from Mineral Ridge to North Burton until 1886. From that year until 1900 he engaged in mining, farming and storekeeping. In 1900 Mr. Owen moved his family to Burton Village where he pursued varied activities. He was postmaster from 1905 to 1913. A short time after his retirement from that office his health failed. His death occurred on February 8, 1922. He was the father of ten children, four sons and two daughters of whom survived him. He was a member of the Disciple Church and the Masonic Lodge.

B. HOWARD PFOUTS
1857-1907

Howard Pfouts was born in Wayne County, Ohio, on October 27, 1857. When he was seven years old his parents moved to Beach City, Ohio, where he resided until shortly after his marriage to Miss Clara Walter in 1881. The same year he moved to the farm at North Burton which is now the home of his son, Zeil. He was a farmer throughout his life and lived on this farm until his death in October, 1907. His relatively early death was caused by an accidental fall from a tree. His farm was the site of Ohio's northernmost coal mine, and all of the mining operations were carried on during his lifetime. He was the father of four children, all of whom survived him. He belonged to the Grange and to the Methodist Church and at the time of his death was a member of the Board of Education.